



# NBII: Partner of the International Year of Biodiversity

## Biodiversity is Life Biodiversity is Our Life

The United Nations has declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity.

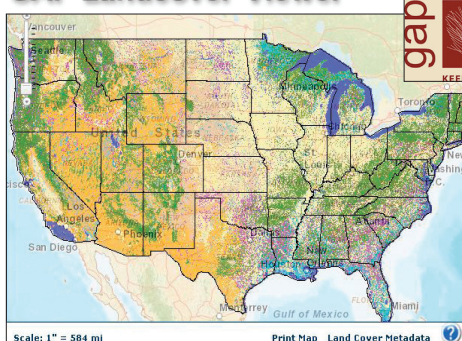
The NBII supports those who are taking action by making accessible and linking together diverse, high-quality biodiversity databases, information products, and analytical tools maintained by NBII partners.

The four observations and goals of the International Year of Biodiversity are addressed by the NBII in, among others, the following ways.

### Humans Are Part of Nature's Rich Diversity and Have the Power to Protect or Destroy It

The GAP Landcover Viewer <http://www.gap.uidaho.edu/landcoverviewer.html> is a decision-support tool that

#### GAP Landcover Viewer



## 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

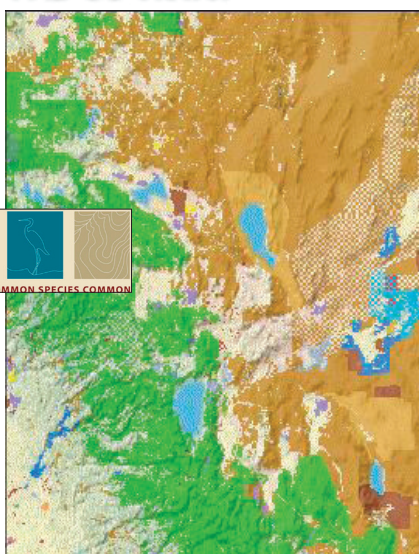
can help planners and managers make informed choices.

### Biodiversity Is Essential to Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services are essential to sustaining the health, wealth, food, fuel, and the other vital services our lives depend on.

The United States Protected Areas Database <http://gap.uidaho.edu:8081/padus/padus2.do> mapping tool helps decision-makers investigate, for example, protected watersheds that are sources of clean drinking water.

#### PAD-US Viewer



### Biodiversity Is Being Irreversibly Lost at an Accelerated Rate

The NBII's Library of Images From the Environment (LIFE) provides scientific images <http://life.nbii.gov> that can help people understand what is being lost, in addition to many other topics.

### 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity

The NBII provides a powerful Web search engine, called Raptor, that helps users find high-quality, reliable scientific data and information about biodiversity, ecosystems, conservation, research, and other biological topics. Raptor searches can help users focus on achievements in safeguarding biodiversity as well as the urgency of the challenges for the future.

Raptor will return images from NBII LIFE as well as documents, databases, Web sites, and other information products related to a user's query. Users can specify not only resources to be searched, but also the type of result desired (Web site, PDF file, etc.). In addition, Raptor forms "clusters" of search-result items based on terms that occur with greater than average frequency within the group of results. Raptor already has a number of other

Photo credit: John J. Mosesso



Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) wading in water.

advanced features not shared by other search engines, and by mid-July, 2010, a “bounding box” geographical search will be available.

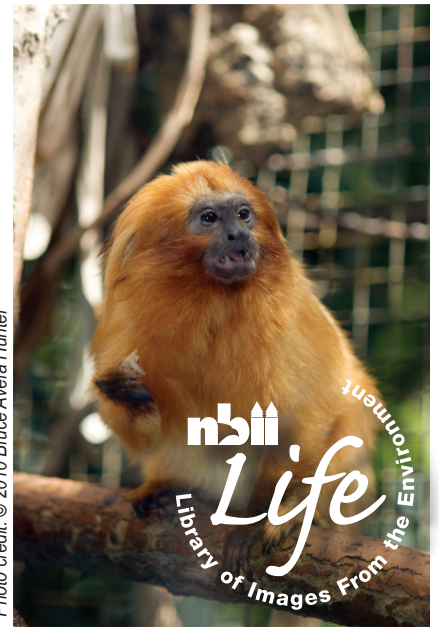
NBII staff carefully review the resources that Raptor searches to ensure that they are providing reliable data and information. These resources include U.S. government agency

Web sites and databases, a number of non-governmental organizations’ Web sites and other data, and community resources such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Biodiversity Heritage Library, and the Center for Evidence-based Conservation, among many others. The NBII welcomes suggestions from users of additional high-quality resources that could be added to Raptor.



Raptor’s capabilities are accessible to the user from the upper right-hand corner of every page within the NBII Web site <http://www.nbii.gov>.

Photo credit: © 2010 Bruce Avera Hunter



Golden Lion Tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*) eating food within an enclosure. This species is considered Endangered by the IUCN.



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**raptor**

search

## For More Information

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## Find us on the Web at:

<http://www.nbii.gov>.